

Comets Baseball Club Inc.



WINTER PRESENTATION NIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2013

**KURBANULLA COMMUNITY
HALL,
JANNALI**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for what I believe was another highly successful 2013 Winter season with the Comets Baseball club taking out the Club Championship once again.

Comets are still a one of the largest growing clubs in the association and you all should be proud of it. Comets were able to field ten (10) sides. Six (6) sides made it through to the Finals, two (2) were Minor Premiers. 1st grade were triumphant and were crowned the Premiers for the second year in a row and our 8th and 9th grade sides fought strongly and were runners up. Well Done to ALL Teams.

This year we saw the Ray Maher batting cage operate in full capacity and it was a hit. I would like to thank once again the group of people that helped to make it happen although we did have to wait for the new batting machine... (Must have been an issue with a leaky boat or customs eh Scotty?)

Bunning's BBQ was well represented again with all teams pitching in making it a very successful fund raising event... "Our second best on record"

I would take this time to thank our very hard working Committee for all the hard work that they put in week in week out, they do this with only one thing to gain and that is to make us the best and they love the Club and wish to see it successful.

The field set up each week, (and what a great looking field it is) you do an amazing job Jimmy McDonald. (Oh, and thank you Carol).

On that note a special thank you to Dru Bright, when asked, he is always ready to fill Jim's shoes. One day he will become our master groundsman but not while Jim's around.

Our Canteen staff is the best in the Shire with Lorraine and Lauren steering the ship, they are in total control. And Lorraine is only one step behind Jimmy in pulling me into line... nothing gets past those two.

We also saw Daniel Back and Angus Bright become official canteen helpers this year, and Rhys Lewis even lent a hand when we got stuck. We must remember these young men at their age could have far better things to do but they are always willing to help, they are also long time players with the Comets. Thanks guys.

The Comets are fast becoming the biggest and most successful club in the shire I am very proud and honoured to be the President of this Club.

We are not a club that asks for anything but a club that is always ready to give, we are a club that will always offer before being asked, we are always the best dressed club, we are a very proud club and you all should be proud to be a part of it... without you there will be no club.

Thank you to my wife Caroline, for putting up with all my crazy phone calls to Junior and Senior players, mums and dads throughout the season and allowing me the time with the Comets.

Once again thank you and be safe

From the President

FIRST GRADE

The season was again marred by an inordinate amount of washouts and also a rather unwelcomed forfeit so, sadly not quite as much ball was played as we would have liked. Nonetheless the team managed to finish in second place and at time of writing was a win away from back to back grand final wins.

Compared to last season, we were a little down on pitching strength this year but Gump, Stanno and Kerro did well and kept us competitive in most games. We found ourselves locked in some great battles with Bonnet Bay and St George Juniors throughout the season, the latter featuring in an epic 17 all draw which featured a Jas Mac cameo in relief. Others to have a crack on the mound this year were Choc and Ryza. Choc was crafty as always, Ryza threw baseballs.

On the hitting front, Messrs Meagher and McMaster were exceptional, Kerro hit for average and with power, whilst Gump and Shoe stroked it very consistently. Between alternating pulled groin muscles and tweaked hamstrings, Choc hit some long balls, and had an absolute cracking day in the first semi final. Upon return from his Canadian eating tour, Ryza hit some late season form and was fortuitous enough to be awarded a homerun when hitting two long fouls one arvo at Jannali.

Choat proved very handy and very durable behind the dish as the season progressed, taking on the bulk of duties from Mat C throughout the home stretch. It's always nice to have his legs on base too, given they still work and he does not resemble a slug. Kegga was Kegga, the consummate professional, playing all over the diamond, and very well! Kerro displayed his versatility by becoming the largest short stop in Comets history, and excelling. Mr Crook got to spend a bit of time in the field for a change and slotted in nicely at 2nd and in the outfield. It was however Shoe who probably had the season defensive highlight with an oh so elegant overhead flick for a forced out at 2nd. It was pretty to watch.

From the silly files this season we have Kerro's cunning Kookaburra, cheekily cheating him of his cherished chicken burger; Mr Choat starting a dance craze where you shuffle side to side while 10 of your mates yell "Fence" at you as loud as they can; Jas Mac doing a tango with the hitting cage net before it took the lead and swept him off his feet; Gump turning up to the wrong field to play; Fanman misjudging a routine fly and making great connection to kick it out to the road; The team's efforts at catching fly balls in general. Top efforts all round.

Good job lads on another successful season. Very special thanks to Lorraine, the epitome of a club person. Your efforts in scoring for us this year were most appreciated. Also thanks to Mahdi Choat who got in there and scored some games for us too, a fantastic effort. Big thanks to Deryk, Norm, Marty Mac and Jason Boseley for helping us out. Thanks to Jim McDonald for maintaining the field in such great condition and moreover to the entire Committee for their tireless efforts in keeping this club great.

Let's go to the races.

SECOND GRADE ROYAL

A year of new begins.

This season saw us bid farewell to long time team mate and coach Scotty "Matho" Matheson who moved on to play with his son Dean for their first ever time together. Congratulations guys come back and join us soon!

Taking over the reigns as team coach was non-other than the man himself, Jim McDonald, who managed to convince at least some of us that we weren't too old to attend a few mid-week training sessions early in the season...

Having recruited some new (and not so new) blood in left-handed reliever Adam "I'm going to America" Proudlock, and seasoned 3rd Baseman, Grant "I Love Mikonos" Franklin. Both of these guys seamlessly integrated well into the team and where a welcome addition. Grant's consistency with the bat and overall knowledge of the game proved to be invaluable, taking out the teams batting title with an on base average of .657 and a final batting average of .520. A job well done!

With the departure of Scotty, the team also sought out early to volunteer a replacement catcher. Craig Hannah instantly pulled the short straw and after one of Jim's vigorous Wednesday night training sessions, consisting of only a few blocks and a couple of throw overs, Craig was controlling the dish like a pro and landed the position full time.

Keeping Craig busy were our two pitchers David "Doof" Daniels and Adam "IGTA" Proudlock (did he tell you he was going to America?).

To say that both these guys had a great season would be an understatement and after having thrown more than 1200 pitches last season, David certainly made the most of the extra break that Adam provided. He finished the season with an ERA of 6.333, pitched 669 pitches of which 415 were strikes. His batting didn't let us down either, slugging .657 and batting .486 for the season. Certainly enough to be awarded the first of the teams two democratically voted MVP awards. Congratulations Doof!

With our infielders taking it easy for most of the season, our outfielders worked extremely hard, and with a team leading 11 stolen bases, Left fielder Craig "Pezza" Perryman showed once again how to catch even the most well hit ball. Letting only a few bleeders find their way to the grass after just a brush of the leather.

Right fielder Stuart Jackson tallied up 13 putouts and recorded only a single error, and while his bat wasn't as kind as his glove during regular season, he went on to average .500 during the finals, which was a great effort. As for our Centre Fielder... let's just say he made an error.

As easy as it may have been for our infield, they sure managed to be consistent all year. While Mark Gear found his niche at 1st Base racking up 52 putouts with only 2 errors, it was Marty McDonald who landed the second of our MVP Awards. He made only 2 errors on 43 plays, had an on base Ave. of .650 and a final batting Ave. of .455. Well Done Marty! And well-scored "Again" misses Mac. Just Kidding!

SECOND GRADE ROYAL (Continued)

Ben "Bunter" Goldsbrough consistently came through with the goods in clutch situations, laying down 6 perfect bunts and driving in 8 RBI's for the season.

Unfortunately, Ben also showed us just how dangerous the game could be by breaking his ankle during batting practice before our semi final game had even started. (TIP! When your mate's ankle looks like a watermelon, don't wave off the ambulance and self diagnose it as a pulled tendon. It may well require a plate and 8 screws.) Get well soon Benny!

All up it was a great year. Special thanks to both Jimmy for coaching the side and to the lovely Carol for scoring each and every week, it certainly wouldn't be the same without you both, and we really do appreciate it.

Thanks again also to Trevor Geldenhuis who managed himself a safe hit and what could arguably be described as catch of the season at third base while benching for us during the semi's.

Next year will definitely be our season, and rumour has it that Darren "H" Harrower could be coming out of retirement. Stay Tuned!

Till Next Year Boys, Enjoy the off-season.

Dezza!

THIRD GRADE GOLD

Come on Coach... after multiple e-Mails being sent out and giving you plenty of time you could not put a couple sentences together to let the Club and your team mates know how your season went.



THIRD GRADE ROYAL

In the off season we welcomed back Tim from his Olympic experience, and Phil and Bootsy from their stint in the minor leagues. We also recruited Lauren and Shayne to the team to add to the young blood of Josh, Brandon and Jason. The team was rounded out with old timers Tony, George, Scott, Trevor and Westy.

While last year we played in second grade, with the loss of a few stars, we were no longer a second grade team and started the season in 4th grade.

However after 5 rounds in 4th grade, with a record of 2 wins, 2 losses and a wash out, the selectors must have seen something we didn't and we were promoted to 3rd grade. In 2012 we were similarly promoted and in that year we made the finals – so no reason we couldn't do it again.

Unfortunately, the losses starting accumulating and were interspersed with the torrential rain of May and June. Not looking good for the finals but Dave assured us each week that we could still make it.

Coming into the last round, we were 0 and 7, and at last Dave told us that we were no hope. So what did we do? Of course, we won, fortunately avoiding the nudey run around Jannali and letting us finishing on a high (well at least not a low).

Thanks to the opposition scorers for their help in us keeping track of batting, Trevor in his inaugural rookie year of coaching, Ticara for being a regular supporter and to the Comets committee for making it all happen.

We will be back!

FOURTH GRADE GOLD

A bit of a twisted year this Season 2013, with a solid result of 3rd in the comp, knocked out pretty comprehensively in the prelim final (ok, we got smashed) but throughout the season no one, least of all ourselves would have rated a 2nd place finish on the table.

We saw the return of Bryen (yes the loud American guy) after a few years stint off – and quite frankly he played amazingly through the year...nowhere near the broken man we left him as a few years back. Injuries again took their toll; backs, hammy's, floating bones, sleep walking, knees and ankles. We had it all. On the diamond also a strange one, for the first time that I can remember we actually fielded better than our batting.....that's perhaps not saying much, but toward the latter end of the season when the bats turned up, a 5 in a row streak (thanks to a charitable 5 run start offered by our friend in Comets Royal ---how did that score finish??) cemented out place in the finals, and it pretty well ended there for us.

A couple of noteworthy mentions however. Paulie's arm; for not falling off during or after pitching 4.5 innings in the semi-final. Bryen's arm for his lawn bowls effort in the same game – but more seriously amazing plays at short through the season. Solid catching all season from Rod (should we mentioned his pitching effort – 81.00 ERA???) – With a strong challenge for catching by Dan. Really impressive year on year improvement with the bat for both Hep and JD, and overall an amazing lack of dummy spits from our usual culprits – you know who you are. A big thanks to Mr Manager who even with a dodgy back was able to not only ensure beer was well supplied at training, but landed the best on base percentage at end of season (.611)

Good season guys – remember it is about having fun with your mates. Rest the bodies up and we'll hit it again next season.

MVP:

Nathan Hepburn with a Batting average of 0.412
Pitching ERA 10.52 over 45 innings with 27 K2's.

Batting:

Linton Burling is an average of 0.559

Most Improved Batting:

Jason Dunstan with an average of 0.316, big improvement compared to last year's average of 0.161

Linton Burling

FOURTH GRADE ROYAL

This season saw us finish 2nd in the regular season but with 2 absolute floggings in week 1 & 2 of the finals saw us , Oh hang on a minute that was the other 4th grade side (sorry).

You have to ask what is going on if you only lose 4 games the whole season and you don't make finals, well that's what happened, if we won our last game we finish 2nd we lost and finished 6th how shit is that.

The players:

JB – took some angry pills

Clarkey – played more games with his beloved sharks

Pete – stop standing up when catching

Bernath – pissed more times than not

Nick – ever reliable and always there

Stu – great to see you have such a shit year with the bat (if you need any tips call who gives a f)

Sean – see above, your holding him back Stu. So is the rest of the team but we are not letting him go.

Ces – you will always find him milling around the bar before the game; he says he's just there to help in the canteen (bullshit)

Craig – what do you say North Melbourne supporter, just a crazy school teacher

Scotty – we don't know what to make of you, some weeks your really good but most weeks just rubbish

Jason – just a great bloke to have in the team just a good all rounder (mostly in the tummy area)

Lorraine – yes everyone this is the actual team she scores for.

Thankyou but you really must put that coffee cup down and watch the game; you missed all my safe hits

All in all we look forward to playing in 5th grade next season (Phil, the President requested this)

Well done Boys & Girls

See you next season

BTW Sean asked me to pass on his acceptance speech:

Hope you all enjoy the night guys...

Make sure you save my statistics sheet as I don't think it will get too much better.

Oh, and if you can accept my numerous awards on my behalf that would be great too.

SIXTH GRADE

The 6th Grade side narrowly missed the semi-finals this season. If we could have consistently put our full team on the field week in week out I am certain we could have finished a little higher on the ladder and challenged the top teams in the finals.

The team consisted of a lot of 14 year olds (5 in total) some younger stalwarts of the club and some older shall we say more experienced baseball players. It was a learning curve for the youngsters in the team having never played senior baseball before and never having anything other than a straight pitch thrown to them before. Injuries and game scheduling also played a part in our lack of success with us more often than not struggling to put 9 players on the field and in many instances relying on players from lower grades filling in to make up the numbers or even in some cases playing short.

(Thanks guys we really appreciated it)

The younger players took a little time to adapt to the bigger field and the curveballs but by the end of the season looked like they belonged. At different stages of the season everyone contributed and the statistics show that although we had a losing season we weren't too far away.

The pitching was spearheaded by one of the youngsters Travis Xureb who looked very composed on the mound and improved dramatically throughout the season. He was ably supported by Peter Grigg along with 2 more of the youngsters in the team, Anthony Evensen and Sean Fraser. All the pitchers were well taken care of by our catchers Dean Matheson and Norm Fraser. In the hitting department Norm Fraser lead the way closely followed by both Peter and Chris Grigg. Liam Hollands the last of the youngsters was not too far behind in the batting statistic either and made a late charge hitting over .600 in the last few games.

Our fielding was our downfall making many errors which ultimately costed us quite a few games.

Thank you to Simone Fraser who managed the side and along with Lynn Hollands did the scoring for us all season. Thanks to John Piggott who helped keep the team in order when I was unable to make a couple of games.

Batting Award - Norm Fraser .529

MVP - Travis Xureb

I look forward to seeing you all back next season where we can really improve from where we finished this year.

Scott Matheson

EIGHTH GRADE GOLD

Come on Coach... after multiple e-Mails being sent out and giving you plenty of time you could not put a couple sentences together to let the Club and your team mates know how your season went.



EIGHTH GRADE ROYAL

A quick summary of our amazing team of super stars!

Bob: Bob had a pretty good year, but he definitely plays the best when he remembers to wear his glasses!! He made some awesome plays through the year, and is showing promise as a budding tennis player (or fly swatter!)

Heath: GET A WATCH. Enough said!

We love how you always have to make something ordinary look spectacular. Makes for our viewing pleasure! Only thing missing this season was another broken window! (Also kudos on learning how to slide!)

Jake: We can't mention Jake, without mentioning his better half, Amanda. We missed you for 5 weeks Amanda!! Don't know how Jake survived without you providing him with food and drinks!!! It was good to see you back in the blue and gold this season Jake!

John: Get that hole in your glove fixed. And try to remember what sport we're playing; we don't have hook shots in baseball! ALSO, thanks for leaving to go on safari at the most crucial point of the season! PS. Missed your dad jokes!

Jon: Good to have you back in the team Jon! One of our quieter members of the team... also known to travel to the wrong ground. Might need to invest in a GPS for next season!

Nathan: 2nd inning smoko break anyone?? Always good to have a lefty in the team, especially when you're in the away dugout so you don't have to run across the field! (Our team is pretty lazy :P) Poor form this season Nathan, not one drunken/hung-over game played!! We expect so much more next season!

Steve: (AKA Nashy) Super-duper coach Nash! Minimal errors this season, well done! (Maybe because we didn't let you play short stop much!) We have to thank you for being such a good influence, now we finally know how to get chucked out of a game, AND the rule of a fly foul ball! You truly are a teacher!

Tony: Some pointers for next season:

- *Learn where the base is, and keep your foot on it!
- *Stop dropping your shoulder into people.
- *Having 2 new bats doesn't make you a better batter!
- *We think you need some more protective gear, you don't have enough.
- *We think you accidentally took Zane's child's helmet, FOR THE WHOLE SEASON

Troy: Don't know where you were for the whole season, but some guy with a beard kept turning up and pretending to be you... Although, we've never seen anyone willingly get thrown from a game before! Good job!

EIGHTH GRADE ROYAL (Continued)

Lauren: YOU WEREN'T EVEN THERE for the grand final. So rude. You obviously were the third best (*girl*) player in the team. Excellent catching, too bad you're a pitcher. Solid effort to finally get a batting average in like the second last game of the season!

Now we get to the best two players of the team. It was hard to separate Renae and Koby, they are just two sensational women, and we are lucky to have them around.

Renae: Nae did a solid effort in catching for a lot of the season. She showed versatility all around the diamond, from catching to pitching to short stop to outfield; it's hard to see how the team could function without her! That must be why Nashy had such a hard time in giving her a half game!

Koby: It's hard to find the right words to write about Koby. She is the quietest member of the team, and doesn't say much, or have any opinions about anything. She showed prowess in the batting box, with her ability to try and get hit by any ball that may be anywhere near it! Koby, please borrow Heath's watch!!! Love the facial expressions and the true determination on her first EVER stolen base to home (if only we had it on video!). But like every elite athlete, Koby suffered from "injuries" throughout the season, get better soon Koby xoxo.

Carol: The most important person of the team, no scorer no game! We loved how she coloured coded her pages, with red, green and red and then more red... Always had her pencils sharpened and her rule book at the ready! Thanks for being instrumental in our forfeit in the semi final (we could have won with seven players and two automatic outs!).

And a shout out to Mark (Renae's dad) for his solid effort at scoring, Carol is still trying to figure what to do with the blank pages in her book. Ps. stick to your peanuts.

In conclusion, we'd like to thank Nashy for being an awesome coach again this season.

You put up with a lot!!!! You put in a lot of hard work and effort on and off the field, season in and season out.

We all appreciate it so much! And too bad, you have to coach us in summer too!!!!

NINTH GRADE

Played 12 games and won 8 coming 2nd in the regular season

With Two digs hurting his shoulder whilst shopping before the season started and not being able to play at all we had to find a new starting pitcher and after trying Stanno with an ERA of 36 we tried JB who was a bit better with ERA of 20 we settled on Matt Pillington who's ERA for the season was 8 and closed with Griggysy with 9 ERA. Though in the finals we needed another pitcher to help make up the 7 innings as our 2 main pitchers were done at 3 each so we had Paul Bellamy pitch ERA 4.5 on 1 leg with Boz DH'ing for him in the finals. Our catcher for most of the season was Annie when she was not injured and Stanno when she was. First base was Col when Boz was injured (which was most of the season), second was Max, Short stop was Alley, third we think JB stood there but he had a hole in his glove and won the most errors for the team. Outfield was Hammy, Drew, Stanno and Griggysy when he was not pitching. Our best batter was Matty with 4 home runs during the regular season and batted .719 and JB (just as well he could hit) with .566 and Griggysy who batted .484 with 15 safe hits though he did also have a hole in his bat with the most K2's with 7. We had beaten every team in the top 4 and were washed out twice against the 2 bottom sides. Maybe if we had played them we may have finished in first place and not second giving us a home advantage which was important as we could run down most teams but struggled to hold them if they batted last.

We made the finals and our first game was against Renown who beat us in 3hours and 40 minutes for 7 digs by 18/17 in a very close tough game. The following week we played Beavers in a game we should have lost as we were behind 10/2 and close to being mercied as we made too many errors. Somehow we managed to fight back and win 21/20 with a baulk walk off win. Was this our grand final? Next week in the Grand Final we came up against a very determined Renown side and even though we played well they still mercied us in less than 5 innings and we lost 15/5. Their fielding and pitching was too strong and we just could not find the gaps with our batting.

The team voted for Matty for the MVP and he also won the batting average with .719 and had 6 home runs. Our next two players that were close for the MVP was between Drew and Annie and they both had good seasons in fielding and batting.

Thanks to Noel our manager, Pat for scoring and the team for the laughs, we may not play the best but we had a good time doing it.

Regards

Boz

STUFF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

This winter we registered 121 players (2012 Winter 109) including 112 Seniors and 9 Juniors with the youngest player being 14 and oldest being 83 and he was new to our Club this year. We had 10 teams with 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 2 x 3rd grades, 2 4th Grades, 6th Grade, 2 x 8th Grades and 9th grade side.

As a club during the regular season we played 125 games (129 games in 2012) out of a possible 170 (73 %) with 45 either washouts or byes. We won 68 which was 54% (60 % if you include draws) There was a total of 8 draws and loses were 49 or 39%. Most teams averaged 6 home games at Jannali and where there were two teams in the same grade the number was higher. Thought a few sides with washouts played there fewer than 4 times during the regular season. The best batting average in any grade was .742 (he is a burglar in a low grade thought in 2012 he batted .649) and we had a player hit 6 home runs this year.

Of our 10 teams 6 made the semis and two teams were minor premiers in 2nd Grade and 8th Grade. 3 teams made the Grand Final (1st, 8th & 9th) and our 1st grade side were the only winners. This is our second premiership in WINTER 1st Grade.

Well done to all our teams this year.

Special thanks go to our Grounds man Jimmy as our ground was open more times than other fields and we had very few wash outs at Jannali. The ground was always presented in the best playing condition every week. Thanks to the canteen staff of Lorraine, Lauren, Angus and Daniel for keeping everyone well feed before and after the games and for running the Bar. The coaches and scorers for turning up every week and doing their best. The Executive for running the club and keeping us on the paddock.

Congratulations to All players, coaches & managers as we won the **Winter 2013 Club Championship** with 32 points (33 points in 2012) which was 10 points clear of Bonnet Bay and all teams contributed. That's 7 in a row and a total of 10 STGBA Club Championships and it's not based on the number of teams as you still have to win games to obtain points.

See you next winter

Phill Boseley

Winter Registrar

BATTING AVERAGES

Grade	Player	Batting Ave
1st Grade	Matt Hardiman	
2nd Grade	Grant Franklin	0.520
3rd Grade Gold	Paul Zanardo	
3rd Grade Royal	Peter Boots	0.417
4th Grade Gold	Linton Burling	0.599
4th Grade Royal	Sean Leong	0.674
6th Grade Royal	Norm Fraser	0.529
8th Grade Gold	Matt Ryder	0.500
8th Grade Royal	Heath McManus	0.742
9th Grade	Max Pillington	0.719

MVPS

Grade	Player
1st Grade	Craig Bunker
2nd Grade	Marty McDonald
2nd Grade	David Daniels
3rd Grade Gold	Luke Winder
3rd Grade Royal	Trevor Geldenhuis
4th Grade Gold	Nathan Hepburn
4th Grade Royal	Sean Leong
6th Grade Royal	Travis Xureb
8th Grade Gold	Koby Maber
8th Grade Royal	John King
9th Grade	Matt Pillington

SCORERS

Grade	Scorer
1st Grade	Lorraine Hall
2nd Grade	Mahdi Choat
2nd Grade	Carol McDonald
3rd Grade Gold	Bob Howie
3rd Grade Royal	
4th Grade Gold	Sue Lewis
4th Grade Royal	Lorraine Hall
6th Grade Royal	Simone Frazer
6th Grade Royal	Lyn Hollands
8th Grade Gold	Nicky Prokop
8th Grade Royal	Carol Maber
9th Grade	Pat Burgess